

Desirability of Establishing a Sub-Committee on
Photographic Intelligence at the IAC Level

The Problem:

To examine the need for and the desirability of establishing a Sub-Committee on Photographic Intelligence at the IAC level.

Facts Bearing Upon the Problem:

1. A paper indicating difficulties and suggested idealizations of the present U. S. photographic intelligence system was prepared by D/GP for the DD/I on 21 May 1954.
2. Following discussions of the paper by the DD/I with AD/CI, AD/RR, Chief, D/GP and others, the DD/I on 10 July 1954 verbally requested the Chief, D/GP to prepare a paper on the need for and the desirability of establishing a Sub-Committee on Photographic Intelligence at the IAC level.
3. Systematically, the Chief, D/GP investigated the current status of those difficulties reported earlier which might be solved or eased by the establishment of an IAC Sub-Committee on Photographic Intelligence. These investigations centered on (a) the coordination of overflight photo reconnaissance, (b) CIA representation on JCS inter-Service photo interpretation committees, and (c) the status of the Joint Services Photographic Print Library. Discussions involved the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Staff, the U. S. Air Force Office of Intelligence, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and CIA components. The results are reported in brief below:

a. Overflight Reconnaissance Control and Coordination

Discussions with Col. H. D. Maxwell, USAF, Capt. P. C. Staley, USN, and Col. A. W. Gillette, USA, of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Plans and Policy Branch, were directed toward reviewing the latest overflight control procedures. Considerations of this highly sensitive subject are severely limited by Presidential request. As reported in a memorandum by Admiral Carney, the point is made that the President himself does not wish to be informed of overflights. He does want the Secretary of Defense, using the JCS, to examine and pass on proposals for

overflights, with permission to be denied if either CIA or the Department of State have an adverse recommendation. Consequently, the current procedure is for major commands having overflight capabilities and plans to present their proposals to the JCS; the JCS's Rainbow Team staffs these problems and consults CIA (Gen. Cabell) and State. At this stage, CIA requirements can be expressed for the proposed flights. CIA enters overflight reconnaissance considerations in other ways, as listed in the following summary:

- (1) In expressing CIA intelligence requirements directly to Air Force or Navy headquarters commands for inclusion in their respective requirement lists.
- (2) In expressing CIA intelligence requirements directly to the JCS Secretariat and Plans and Policy Branch for inclusion in the National requirement list (current directive limited to southeast Asia and COMNAVFT's responsibility).
- (3) In reviewing with JCS and State representatives any overflight plans for which approval is requested by the operating force with the capability to accomplish it.

Discussions of other ways and means of effecting coordination in the photo intelligence field were concluded with Col. Maxwell and, particularly, Capt. Staley expressing serious doubt that an IAC sub-committee could be brought into discussions of overflights because of the President's wishes in this regard.

b. CIA Representation on Inter-Service Photo Interpretation Committees.

Met with Col. F. A. Pettit, USA, Capt. W. F. Royall, USN, and Mr. H. L. Coggin, representatives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Photo and Survey Section, on 22 July 1954 to review CIA's interests in the field of photographic intelligence and to again suggest CIA representation on the five inter-Service Committees on Photo Interpretation Keys and Techniques, Photo Interpretation Training, Photo Interpretation Equipment, Photo Interpretation Facilities and Photo Interpretation Reporting Regulations. The suggestion met favorable agreement by the representatives and was followed by a formal invitation from Col. A. G. Foote, USAF, of the JCS-PSS, to the AD/RR to name non-voting representatives to the five committees. These

committees are described in Annex A. This action has been completed and the following CIA personnel are assigned to the committees listed:

(1) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation
Keys and Techniques

Observer - [REDACTED] 25X1A
Alternate - [REDACTED]

(2) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation
Training

Observer - [REDACTED] 25X1A
Alternate - (To be named)

(3) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation
Equipment

Observer - [REDACTED] 25X1A
Alternate - [REDACTED]

(4) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation
Facilities

Observer - [REDACTED] 25X1A
Alternate - [REDACTED]

(5) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation
Reporting Regulations

Observer - [REDACTED] 25X1A
Alternate - (To be named)

c. Joint Services Photographic Print Library

This proposal is now in the staff stage, with Navy - Air Force disagreements on how the Library would be controlled accounting for most of the difficulty and delay to date. It was determined that a joint proposal (JIC 620/8) will be submitted to the Joint Chiefs in the next four weeks, even if it is necessary to present a split view.

Discussion:

1. It is evident from the points listed that policy and planning in the photographic intelligence field currently are undergoing changes which are not reflected in the D/GP paper to the D/I dated 21 May 1954. All of these changes appear to be improve-

ments of different degree in one form or another as far as CIA interests in the photographic intelligence field are concerned.

2. Photographic Reconnaissance Coordination

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In the investigation of arrangements regarding overflights and certain JCS directives regarding reconnaissance requirements to determine whether additional effort is needed to achieve better inter-Agency coordination, [REDACTED] O/OP, and [REDACTED] O/IG, were satisfied as a result of independent discussions that intra-Pentagon coordination is adequate to meet the needs of the Pentagon and that coordination between the Pentagon (JCS) and CIA (Gen. Cabell) is fully adequate in those respects where the activity involved is extra-ordinarily sensitive. It was also determined that room for improvement exists in some of the mechanics for establishing photo-intelligence capabilities and directing these to the satisfaction of stated requirements. However, the Pentagon is aware of those bottlenecks causing inconvenience and is using its daily experience to achieve better results. The system of overflight control described seems to be working except for delays in time. Captain Staley (JCS) impressed the CIA investigators [REDACTED] with the extreme sensitivity of this subject and the severe limitation on the number of people allowed to participate in project proposals. He emphasized that special intelligence channels of communication are used and that intelligence elements of the military services within the Pentagon constitute the executive agents for staffing Theater proposals. (In view of the sensitivity of this subject it is requested that this memorandum be exposed to the absolute minimum of CIA personnel)

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3. U. S. [REDACTED] Systems of Photographic Reconnaissance Control

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In the effort to improve upon the U. S. system of photo reconnaissance control comparisons with and certain advantages of the [REDACTED] (see Annex B) have been noted. One might conclude that a flaw exists in the U. S. system because the impetus for activity lies within the Theaters. By virtue of this practice it might be concluded that the lack of central direction from Washington would result in full capabilities not being used, a condition that [REDACTED] central control could correct. Theoretically this may appear sound, but it must be remembered that the basic American practice is one of decentralizing control to Theater commanders. Thus, the U. S. considers the Theater as the best locus for determining its capabilities and initiating its plans for proposed flights. Currently, numerous proposals are initiated by Far East commands. Little has systematically developed in Europe largely because CINCEUR has been concentrating on developing inter-Theater coordination. This coordination is now apparently being achieved

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and it is expected that CINCEUR will soon initiate a number of proposals for overflights from that area. It is not likely that JCS will vary its Theater - oriented policy in the single field of photo-intelligence, even to accommodate IAC pressure for coordination at the Washington level.

4. CIA Representation on JCS Inter-Service Photographic Intelligence Committees

The invitation from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Photography and Survey Section, for CIA to name non-voting representatives to the five inter-Service committees on photo interpretation comes after some five previous attempts to secure representation had negative results. CIA representatives will not sit with the Steering Committee and, in view of this and the "observer", non-voting status of CIA representatives on the other committees, the new representation might appear of limited value. However, knowledge of the internal operations of JCS-PSS and its relations to the committees indicates that CIA should be able to accomplish its initial objectives without too much difficulty under these conditions. With demonstrated performance and cooperation CIA should be able to consolidate its foothold and extend its authority and representation without endangering the goodwill and harmonious relations now established.

5. Joint Service Photographic Print Library

Although considerable inter-Service wrangling has attended the discussions leading up to the vote on JCS-JIC Working Paper 620/8, the issue of establishing a Joint Services Photographic Print Library appears now to have progressed to a point where reasonable expectation exists for its establishment, or at minimum, of a Central Index, soon. Air Force initiative in this regard has already led to the approval for establishing a large partially underground, 30 million photographic negative library at Vint Farm, Virginia. Another Air Force contract in the sum of \$800,000 has been let to a commercial company

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to complete the index plot coverage of some 8 million aerial photographic negatives now held in the Pentagon. These moves promise significant help to all intelligence activities who would seek to locate, examine and order reproductions of U. S. photographic intelligence assets.

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6. Consideration of the foregoing facts and oral representations of the JCS Rainbow Team has led CIA investigators [REDACTED] to the belief that it is unnecessary, unwise and probably would be unprofitable to pursue IAC or NSC direction of coordination in this field at this time.
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Conclusions:


1. Recent changes in U. S. photographic intelligence policy and planning are not reflected in the D/GP memorandum of 21 May 1954 to the DD/I.
2. The changes have resulted from JCS actions and represent improvements as far as CIA interests in the photographic intelligence field are concerned.
3. The major improvements take the form of:
 - a. JCS Plans and Policy Branch progress to date in the ultimate centralization of overflight reconnaissance control in the hands of JCS-CIA-State.
 - b. CIA representations on the JCS inter-Service committees on photographic interpretation.
 - c. Accelerated progress toward and promise of the establishment soon of a U. S. Joint Services Photographic Print Library or Central Photo Index.
4. It does not appear desirable at this time to recommend establishment of an IAC Sub-Committee on Photographic Intelligence.

Recommendations:

1. That CIA endeavor to effect increased external coordination and improvement in U. S. photographic intelligence policy and planning by informal influence thru established channels and those promised shortly rather than to make formal recommendations at the present time for basic reorganizations; that the results of these endeavors be observed over a suitable period and evaluated as to their success in meeting the objectives of National intelligence and CIA operations.
2. That extended efforts be made by all concerned to further improve CIA photographic intelligence capabilities and the coordination of internal photo interpretation interests by:

- a. Establishing regular D/CP representation in DD/P para-military photographic reconnaissance planning operations.
- b. Assigning the Management Improvement Staff to undertake a study of the responsibilities assigned to and services rendered by the Photographic Intelligence Division in order to assure maximum efficiency in meeting Agency needs with the capabilities provided (MIS action taken 24 September 1954).
- c. Issuing an Agency Regulation which designates the Photographic Intelligence Division as the focal point of photographic intelligence functions on behalf of the Agency.


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Chief, Photo Intelligence Division

Concurrences:

Chief, Geographic Research

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Assistant Director/RR

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ANNEX "A"

JCS LIST OF PROCEDURES FOR THE COORDINATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION

References: a. J.C.S. 202/69
b. Minutes of Photographic and Survey Section Ad Hoc Committee Conference on Photo Interpretation Keys and Techniques, 15 April 1953

1. The following committees are established for formalized inter-Service coordination for the improvement of photographic interpretation processes.

2. Joint Photo Interpretation Steering Committee.

a. A Joint Photo Interpretation Steering Committee is established, to be composed of a representative from each Service and from the Photographic and Survey Section, with representation from the following offices:

(1) Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Department of the Army (Major Albert W. White).

(2) Director of Air Warfare, Naval Photographic Branch (Member) (Captain A. D. Fraser); Director of Naval Intelligence Photo and Graphics Desk (Associate Member) (Commander J. C. James).

(3) Director of Intelligence, USAF, Reconnaissance Branch, Collection Operations Division (Member) (Colonel G. W. Gregg) (Associate Member) (Colonel W. W. Berg).

(4) One member of the Photographic and Survey Section to be Chairman of the Committee.

b. The Steering Committee will assist the Photographic and Survey Section in the coordination of joint photographic interpretation development in the fields of photo interpretation keys and techniques, training, equipment, facilities, reporting procedures, and related photographic interpretation programs and policies.

c. The Steering Committee will meet on call by any one member, and not less than once each quarter.

d. The Steering Committee will be the monitoring agency for the inter-Service committees indicated below to effect coordination on joint photographic interpretation matters.

3. Inter-Service Photo Interpretation Committees.

a. Within the field of photographic interpretation, inter-Service committees as appropriate will be formed to consider specialized photographic interpretation matters of inter-Service or joint interest.

b. The following committees are established at this time:

(1) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Keys and Techniques;

(2) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Training;

(3) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Equipment;

(4) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Facilities;

(5) Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Reporting Regulations.

c. The composition of the Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Keys and Techniques will consist of one representative from each of the following offices or agencies:

<u>ARMY</u>	- Mr. Finn E. Bronner, Office of Chief of Engineers, Intelligence Division
<u>NAVY</u>	- Mr. Page Truesdell, USN Photographic Interpretation Center
<u>AIR FORCE</u>	- Dr. John Roscoe, AFOIN-1A2, (Member) Dr. Tom Chisnell, AFOIN-1A2, (Associate)

d. The composition of the Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Training will consist of one representative from each of the following offices or agencies:

<u>ARMY</u>	- Major Albert W. White, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Training Division
<u>NAVY</u>	- Mr. J. W. Gardner, U.S. Naval Photo Interpretation Center
<u>AIR FORCE</u>	- Dr. John Roscoe, AFOIN-1A2 (Member) Mr. Robert Mallett, AFOIN-1A2 (Associate)

e. The composition of the Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Equipment will consist of one representative from each of the following offices or agencies:

<u>ARMY</u>	- Major Albert W. White, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Training Division
<u>NAVY</u>	- Lieutenant C. R. Longo, U. S. Naval Photo Interpretation Center
<u>AIR FORCE</u>	- Dr. John Roscoe, AFOIN-1A2 (Member) Major Frederick Sager, AFOIN-1A2 (Associate)

f. The composition of the Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Facilities will consist of one representative from each of the following offices or agencies:

<u>ARMY</u>	- Major Albert W. White, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Training Division (Member) Major J. R. Maertens, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Training Division (Associate)
<u>NAVY</u>	- Mr. V. Vankeuren, U.S. Naval Photo Interpretation Center
<u>AIR FORCE</u>	-

g. The composition of the Inter-Service Committee on Photo Interpretation Reporting Regulations will consist of one representative from each of the following offices or agencies:

<u>ARMY</u>	- Major Albert W. White, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Training Division (Member) Major J. E. Maertens, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Training Division (Associate)
<u>NAVY</u>	- Mr. C. G. Coleman, U.S. Naval Photo Interpretation Center
<u>AIR FORCE</u>	- Mr. Theodore Tate, AFOIN-1A2 (Member) Major Charles Hammon, AFOIN-1A2 (Associate)

h. The inter-Service committees indicated above will prepare a draft statement of the proposed terms of reference for each committee and forward to each member of the Steering Committee. A brief summary of each meeting will be forwarded to each member of the Steering Committee.

i. Each inter-Service committee will appoint a chairman, to be rotated among the Services at regular intervals.

j. Meetings of the inter-Service committees will be held on call by the chairman or on the recommendation of any member.

4. Based upon summaries and conclusions of meetings of the inter-Service committees, the Steering Committee will forward recommendations to the Photographic and Survey Section to be processed in accordance with the provisions of J.C.S. 202/69, and other existing policies and procedures of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as appropriate.

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